

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

GRANT PERIOD: 2017–2022

THE OKLAHOMA PARTNERSHIP CHILD WELL-BEING INITIATIVE 3 (OPI-3)

LEAD AGENCY: Oklahoma Department of
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

TARGET SERVICE AREA: Oklahoma and
Tulsa Counties

LOCATION: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES REGION:** 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED: OK-005

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Oklahoma Partnership Child Well-Being Initiative Phase-3 (OPI-3) is a multifaceted approach to address the presence of alcohol and other drug abuse (AOD) within the context of Oklahoma's child welfare system. The OPI-3 is building on Oklahoma's collaborative infrastructure to meet the needs of families involved with both substance use disorder treatment and child welfare systems. The project is implementing the Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) intervention and disseminating best and evidence-based practices on the impact of substance exposure on young children and strategies for addressing their needs to various child serving community stakeholders. Since the onset of COVID-19, the ABC intervention has been delivered to participants remotely, when possible.

The OPI-3 is anchored in the four objectives listed below, and they are impacting participants at distinct points in the life of the child welfare case. The OPI-3 project objectives are as follows:

- Increase the well-being of children and families affected by substance use
- Improve permanency outcomes for children affected by parental substance use disorders
- Ensure safety of children within families affected by substance use
- Strengthen state's capacity to deliver collaborative and integrated services

TARGET POPULATION: The target population for the ABC intervention are families affected by substance use with children ages 0–4 years of age who are screened as at risk of or placed in out-of-home placement, with parental substance abuse involvement determined to be a factor in child welfare cases. The target population for workforce development training are the statewide child welfare, health care professionals, and certified substance use disorder treatment providers.

PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED: The project will serve 300 families with the ABC intervention. The project estimates that 1,500 child welfare, substance use disorder treatment providers, and health care professionals will participate in training related to the impact of substance exposure on young children and strategies for addressing their needs, for a total of 7,500 professionals trained during the five-year grant period.

MAJOR PROGRAM GOAL

GOAL: The purpose of the project is to increase the well-being of and improve the permanency outcomes for children affected by substance use.

KEY PROGRAM SERVICES

- Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (including parenting skills training and education)
- Training on substance-exposed newborns and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services
- University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center on Child Abuse and Neglect
- University of Delaware Infant Caregiver Project
- University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc., University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare

EVALUATION DESIGN

The overall evaluation of the Oklahoma Partnership Initiative-3 (OPI-3) has been designed and will be led by researchers at the University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare. The administration of clinical services and on-site data collection will occur through a subcontract with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. The local evaluation has an impact study and a process study. OPI-3 is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

IMPACT STUDY DESIGN

OPI-3 will use a quasi-experimental design to examine the impact of its RPG services. Members of the program group will receive ABC, a home-visiting program designed to address caregiver-child attachment and regulatory problems in young children over 10 sessions. The evaluator will identify members of the comparison group using Oklahoma Department of Human Services administrative data and expect that they will have access to business-as-usual services from community partners and child welfare agencies. The impact study will include 900 families—300 in the program group and 600 in the comparison group. The grantee will examine between group impacts in the domains of permanency and safety; and program participants will be assessed for outcomes in the domains of child well-being, family functioning, and recovery.

Data sources include administrative data (for both the program and comparison group) and information gathered by data collectors using standardized instruments (for the program group only). Staff from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center will conduct data collection with standardized instruments for both the program and comparison groups. Program effects data will be collected at two time points for each family: (1) when families begin services; and (2) at the end of services. Administrative data will be collected on both groups for the duration of RPG funding (through 2022). The impact evaluation will rely only on administrative data.

PROCESS STUDY DESIGN

In the process study, the grantee will examine fidelity to program implementation plans and standards, the types of modifications made to the intervention, variation in how the intervention is implemented (including the use of telehealth services), and the level of coordination between services. The grantee will also evaluate the extent to which OPI-3 achieves targeted proximal

outcomes (for example, the dosage of services for families) and assess local and system-wide strengths of or barriers to implementation. The process study will track the establishment of partnership agreements and staff training or coaching. Data sources include program documents, reflections from the steering committee, administrative data, fidelity data, staff interviews, video monitoring of sessions, and on-site observations.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

- The OPI-3 activities enhance data-driven infrastructures and ensure protocols and processes are in place to continue when grant funding has expired. The partners have researched state Medicaid billing options and have confirmed treatment providers' abilities to bill Medicaid for evidence-based interventions. Enrollment in the intervention and sufficient sample sizes have been calculated to ensure the project has sufficient power to detect significant differences, which allows project leadership and cites ample time to plan for training of trainers, fiscal sustainability infrastructure, dissemination of findings, and garnering community support prior to grants conclusion. The project evaluator's outcome evaluation specifically provides a helpful cost-benefit analysis. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) will utilize the most current or applicable model to analyze the cost-effectiveness of the OPI-3 project when compared to substance abuse treatment as usual.

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